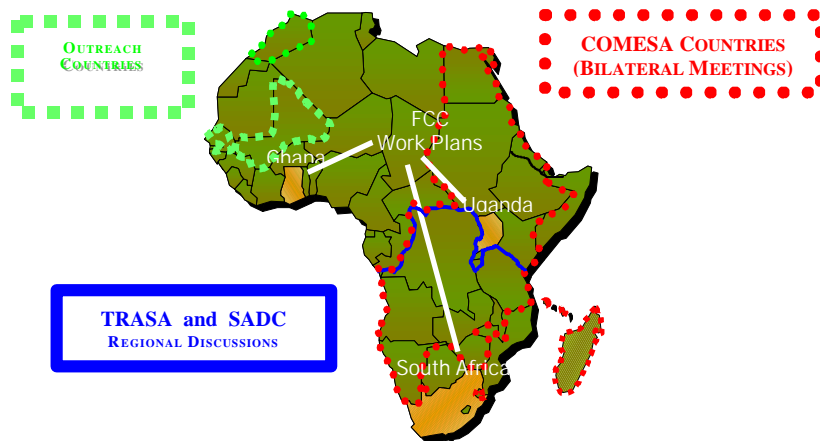




V. WORK PLANS AND OTHER REGULATORY COOPERATIVE EFFORTS



Work Plans

A cornerstone of the Chairman's commitment under the Development Initiative is to implement bilateral work plans with key countries to help them achieve WTO objectives and serve as regional models. In this regard, at AFCOM' 99, the Chairman noted that FCC staff was formulating work plans on technical regulatory assistance with specific partners in Africa and other regions of the world. He announced his intention to sign work plans with South Africa, Uganda, and Ghana as part of the Africa Development Initiative.

The FCC selected countries for technical assistance based on the following criteria:

- 📄 General regulatory environment – whether the country's current regulatory environment is or soon will be conducive to establishing an independent regulator and transparent regulatory regime.
- 📄 Market liberalization and privatization – whether the country has a stated commitment to market liberalization and privatization, principally as evidenced by signing the WTO Basic Telecom Services Agreement.
- 📄 Competition and private participation – whether the country has demonstrated a commitment or willingness to foster international competition in its telecommunications markets and to allow the participation of foreign companies and private domestic companies in the future delivery of basic and advanced telecommunications products and services.
- 📄 Comparative need for telecom development and interest in receiving regulatory assistance – whether there is a more significant need for telecom development in one country versus another, and the extent to which the country selected has expressly demonstrated an interest in receiving regulatory assistance and training from the FCC.



- ✎ Ability to serve as a regional leader – the likelihood that others might follow suit.
- ✎ Compatibility with industry objectives – the extent of U.S. telecommunications industry interest in particular countries, as evidenced by industry licenses, applications or inquiries.

South Africa, Ghana, and Uganda met these criteria. For example, all three are WTO members who have made Basic Telecom Services commitments. All have in place separate telecommunications regulators. All have moved to privatize their former state telecom monopolies. All have, in varying degrees, begun to open their markets to alternative service providers. See Appendix 4. All three have expressed a desire to enter into bilateral work plan agreements with the FCC. In view of the foregoing, work plans were executed with these countries as indicated below.

South Africa

On August 17, 1999, Chairman Kennard and the Chairman of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA), Nape Maepa, signed an FCC-SATRA Work Programme under which the FCC offers technical assistance to SATRA personnel over a twelve-month period. In his opening remarks at the signing ceremony, Chairman Kennard noted that the work plan solidifies the commitment of the two regulatory agencies to work together to make telecommunications services accessible to the largest number of people.



FCC/SATRA Work Programme
Signing Ceremony

The work plan signed by Chairman Kennard and Chairman Maepa is designed to assist SATRA in furthering its goals of fostering competition, employing transparency, and broadening universal access to telecommunications for the citizens of South Africa. The work plan includes the provision of technical regulatory assistance on such issues as universal service, spectrum management, and transparent regulatory procedures. See Appendix 5 for a copy of the Work Programme.

Uganda

On December 23, 1999, Chairman Kennard signed a work plan with the Uganda Communication Commissions (UCC). Chairman Katahoire signed on behalf of the UCC. The FCC-UCC Work Program, among other things, will focus on the provision of technical regulatory assistance on such issues as universal access, spectrum management, transparent regulatory procedures and wireless services. See Appendix 7 for a copy of the Work Program.



Ghana

On January 21, 2000, Chairman Kennard signed a work plan with the Ghana National Communications Authority (GNCA). Acting Director General Gyimah signed on behalf of the GNCA. The FCC-GNCA Work Program provides for technical regulatory assistance to GNCA personnel on such issues as universal access, licensing, interconnection, dispute resolution, and strategies to promote competition in the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors. See Appendix 6 for a copy of the Work Program.

Other Regulatory Cooperative Efforts

In addition to signing the three work plans with the Ghana National Communications Authority, South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, and Uganda Communications Commission, the FCC, through its International Bureau, has written to three Francophone countries, Mali, Senegal, and Morocco, about the possibility of future regulator-to-regulator cooperation.

FCC International Visitors Program

The FCC, through its International Visitors Program (IVP), continues to host regulators, ministerial officials and others from Africa for tailored telecommunications training programs at the FCC's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Recently, from the African region, the IVP has hosted regulators from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, and South Africa.

USTTI

The FCC also participates in the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), a non-profit joint venture between leaders of the U.S. communications industry and ranking officials from the U.S. government. Chairman Kennard, along with other senior officials in the U.S. government and private industry, serves on the USTTI Board of Directors. The goal of this collaborative effort, which is directed by Ambassador Michael Gardner, is to provide a comprehensive array of tuition-free courses in telecommunications and broadcasting for women and men who regulate and manage the communications infrastructures in developing countries around the globe.

Significantly, from 1982 through 1999, 5,574 participants from 160 countries graduated from USTTI. Each year the FCC offers training courses through USTTI, including courses on spectrum management, radio spectrum monitoring techniques and procedures, regulatory and privatization issues in telecommunications, and laboratory techniques in support of equipment authorization programs, among others. Chairman Kennard discussed internet and E-commerce issues with USTTI seminar attendees in 1998 and in early December 1999. In addition, FCC professional staff volunteer as



USTTI faculty to teach the courses. In addition to these yearly courses, the FCC contributes to special USTTI programs. For example, during the Fall of 1998, Chairman Kennard met with SATRA Chairman Maepa and fifteen SATRA lawyers, economists, and consumer specialists who attended the Special USTTI/SATRA Seminar. Further, Barbara Cutts of the International Bureau is the FCC's Administrator for USTTI programs. She designs, coordinates and directs the presentation of FCC sponsored USTTI training. Information on USTTI is accessible at <http://www.ustti.org>.

Internet Initiatives

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - The FCC also participated in UNDP-Africa's "Internet Initiative for Africa," which commenced in 1997 to introduce or improve internet access in several African countries. Countries participating in this cost-sharing project include Gambia, Nigeria, Mauritania, Swaziland, Ethiopia, and Namibia. FCC assistance also was provided for UNDP-Africa's regional seminars on internet and telecommunications policy for eastern and southern Africa.

The main goals of the initiative are: (1) to ensure access to the internet on a nondiscriminatory basis and at a reasonable price; (2) to ensure a leadership role for the private sector in providing internet service; and (3) to create an enabling regulatory environment for internet use and growth.

As Chairman Kennard noted in his remarks at AFCOM '98,

"[The Internet Initiative for Africa] established and directed by Mr. Richard Kerby of UNDP, is expanding the African Information Infrastructure by increasing internet connectivity in a number of African nations. UNDP's commitment to encourage conditions of fair competition and universal access to the internet, and to promote a leadership role for the private sector, make it a natural partner for the FCC."



The President's Internet for Economic Development Initiative

In July 1999 Vice President Gore announced the President's Internet for Economic Development Initiative to help to spread internet and electronic commerce to developing countries. Of the 11 countries selected by the President to first participate in this initiative, six are in Africa and they include all three of the African countries selected to participate in the Kennard Development Initiative: Ghana, South Africa and Uganda. The Kennard Development Initiative hopes to provide technical assistance in areas of policy reform so that the critical foundation for infrastructure investment and development can be laid to support the internet, e-commerce, telemedicine, and distance-learning applications envisioned in the President's initiative.